

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 have been examined. Claims 1-3 and 5-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and claims 1, 4 and 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

I. Preliminary Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the drawings filed on March 14, 2001 are accepted, as well as for returning an initialed PTO 1449 form for the March 14, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,748,736 to Mittra (“Mittra”)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Mittra.

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites that the authentication server processor executes a logout when the second user processor in the receiver terminal does not receive a periodically distributed encryption key, which is periodically generated by the authentication server processor and distributed to the receiver terminal.

The Examiner maintains that the above features are disclosed in col. 8, lines 41-44 of Mitra. However, the cited portion merely discloses a case where the group security controller (i.e. alleged authentication server processor) decides that it no longer wants a particular member (i.e. a receiver or sender) within the group. In this case, the group security controller notifies the member of its termination.

Applicant submits that the “decision” of the group security controller to terminate a group membership of one of its members, fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1 recited above. For example, Mitra does not provide any disclosure as to what the group security controller’s decision is based upon. On the other hand, claim 1 recites that a logout is executed when the receiver terminal does not receive a periodically distributed encryption key. Mitra fails to teach or suggest that the group security controller’s “decision” is based upon the non-receipt of an encryption key by a receiver.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference, and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

B. Claims 2, 3 and 6

Since claims 2, 3 and 6 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claim 5

Since claim 5 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and incorporated into claim 1, Applicant refers the Examiner to the comments presented above.

D. Claims 7, 8 and 9

Since claims 7, 8 and 9 contain features that are analogous to the features recited above for claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 7, 8 and 9 are patentable over the cited reference for at least analogous reasons as presented above.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,275,859 to Wesley et al. (“Wesley”)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wesley.

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites that the authentication server processor executes a logout when the second user processor in the receiver terminal does not receive a periodically distributed encryption key,

which is periodically generated by the authentication server processor and distributed to the receiver terminal.

The Examiner maintains that the central authority CA 12 discloses the claimed authentication server processor, while the receiver nodes 10R1-10RN disclose the claimed receiver terminal (Fig. 1). Nevertheless, even if Applicant assumes *arguendo* that Wesley discloses the features above, Wesley still fails to teach or suggest that the CA 12 ever executes a logout when one of the receiver nodes 10R1-10RN does not receive an encryption key, which is periodically distributed as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference, and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

B. Claim 4

Since claim 4 is dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

C. Claims 7-9

Since claims 7-9 contain features that are analogous to the features recited above for claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 1.

IV. Newly Added Claims

Applicant has added claims 10 and 11 to provide more varied protection for the present invention. Applicant submits that claims 10 and 11 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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